

## Message Text

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71/52

ACTION NEA-12

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 EUR-25 ADP-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-09 H-02

INR-09 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 SS-14

USIA-12 RSR-01 NIC-01 OMB-01 /115 W

----- 126089

R 221524 Z MAR 73

FM AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7394

INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

USINT CAIRO

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY KUWAIT

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI

C O N F I D E N T I A L MOSCOW 3137

C O R R E C T E D C O P Y - ADD PARIS AS INFO ADDEE

E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, UR, IR, IZ

SUBJ: IRAQ' S SADDAM HUSSEIN TURNS UP IN MOSCOW

1. ARRIVAL OF IRAQ' S SADDAM HUSSEIN IN MOSCOW ON MARCH 21 WAS REPORTED FOLLOWING DAY BY PRAVDA IN FIRST PUBLIC MENTION OF IRAQI LEADER' S VISIT TO USSR. KOSYGIN LED SOVIET AIRPORT WELCOMING PARTY. WE HAVE NO INDICATION OF PURPOSE FOR SADDAM HUSSEIN VISIT AT THIS TIME, BUT HIGH LEVEL OF IRAQI DELEGATION, WHICH INCLUDES FOREIGN MINISTER BAKI , AND LAST MINUTE ANNOUNCEMENT SUGGEST VISIT HASTILY ARRANGED IN ORDER TO DISCUSS IMPORTANT SUBSTANTIVE ISSUES. WE EXPECT THAT BREZHNEV, IN KEEPING WITH RECENT PENCHANT FOR MEETING FOREIGN VISITORS, WILL RECEIVE VISITING IRAQI LEADER.

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2. WHILE SOVIETS DID NOT ANNOUNCE VISIT BEFORE IRAQI GUESTS HAD ACTUALLY ARRIVED, IZVESTIYA ON MARCH 20 BEGAN SETTING ATMOSPHERE FOR VISIT BY REPORTING RECENT COMMENTS BY SADDAM HUSSEIN IN BAGHDAD LAUDING SOVIET FRIENDSHIP AND " REAL ASSITANCE" TO IRAQ. IZVESTIYA REPORT ALSO NOTED SADDAM HUSSEIN'S HARSH DEPICTION OF US AS IRAQ'S " ENEMY." IN ADDITION, SOVIET PRESS IS PUBLICISING BAGHDAD'S VERSION OF RECENT IRAQI KUWAIT BORDER CLASH WHICH, OF COURSE, PLACES ONUS OF RESPONSIBILITY ON KUWAITIS.

3. KOSYGIN INVOLVMENT, COMING SO SOON AFTER HIS TRIP TO IRAN, WOULD NOT ON FACE OF IT CONTRIBUTE TO EASING IRANIAN ANXIETIES OVER SOVIET/ IRAQI RELATIONSHIP. KOSGYIN MAY HOWEVER HAVE BRIEFED SHAH ON IMPENDING IRAQI VISIT IN ORDER TO LIMIT INEVITABLE NEGATIVE IMPACT.

4. IN KEEPING WITH IRAQI INTEREST IN JOINING CEMAN, CURRENT VISIT MAY HAVE AS ONE OF ITS RESULTS BAGHDAD'S FORMAL ASSOCIATION WITH BLOC ECONOMIC ORGANIZATION. IRAN'S PLANS TO PURCHASE LARGE QUANTITY OF MILITARY EQUIPMENT FROM US ALSO IS BOUND TO BE SUBJECT OF DISCUSSION WITH INCREASED IRAQI PRESSURE ON SOVIETS TO DO MORE FOR BAGHDAD ON MILITARY SUPPLY FRONT.  
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\*\*\* Current Handling Restrictions \*\*\* n/a

\*\*\* Current Classification \*\*\* CONFIDENTIAL

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SECSTATE WASHDC INFO AMMAN  
BEIRUT  
CAIRO  
MULTIPLE  
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